

New 'UMSL in Glass' sculpture outside lower level of the MSC was unveiled this week.

PHOTO: LEON DEVANCE / THE CURRENT

'UMSL in Glass' unveiled for Jubilee

KARLYNE KILLEBREW
Staff Writer

In celebration of University of Missouri-St. Louis's fiftieth anniversary, the "UMSL in Glass" statue on the Millennium Student Center lawn was unveiled on Feb. 6. The Student Government Association partnered with Student Life and the Jubilee Committee to host a bonfire from 5 to 7 p.m. just outside the MSC, helping the university and its students celebrate the occasion.

"We wanted to make sure that we had something that was really student-gearred and to have an event that [students] wanted to actually participate in. The bonfire seemed like the best way to do it,"

Steven Brockman, senior, business administration, SGA president, said.

There were many smiles among the crowd as attendees partook in the free food and free T-shirts. Those present also had the opportunity to win prizes. Jasmine Tomlin, freshman, graphic design, raffle winner, said she came out specifically "for the free T-shirt and the raffle."

"I'm happy that [UMSL has] been here for a long time, that it's established and well known. I think that's a great thing," Tomlin said when asked how she felt about the university's milestone.

Many seem to feel positively

about the significance of UMSL aging. "I think it's cool. Maybe people will take us seriously once we start to get older and older. We're on our way," Kelsey McCracken, sophomore, media studies, said.

Many were surprised to actually see the statue once it was revealed. Everyone herded outside to hear Chancellor Tom George speak and, alongside Dr. Krista Tucciaroni, unveil the mystery that was three months in the making.

The idea for the statue was the brainchild of Tucciaroni's advertising technique class. After continuous discussion, it went from the classroom to the Jubilee

Committee and finally to UMSL's front lawn.

The end result is a clear glass wall with the letters UMSL in red in the center.

Standing outside in the biting wind, it was apparent that there were quite a few raised hopes about what "UMSL in Glass" would be like. Photographers, writers, students and alumni bounced around on their toes trying to keep warm, waiting to get a peek at the artwork. "Hopefully it will be awe-inspiring; we can all say 'Aww!'" Sergeant Thomas McEwen of the UMSL police force said.

"It's not what I expected, but

[it's] still cool. I thought it was going to be ... a face or something," McCracken said.

"It was UMSL in glass," Nabeehah Azeez, senior, criminal justice, said when asked what she thought about it.

This was only one of many events to celebrate UMSL's fiftieth anniversary. Events are scheduled all year to mark this moment in UMSL's history.

A calendar with dates, times and descriptions for the events can be found at blogs.umsu.edu/jubilee under the "events" tab.

Journalist Soledad O'Brien visits UMSL

PAUL PEANICK
Staff Writer

Soledad O'Brien, Emmy award-winning CNN special correspondent, gave a one-night-only talk on Feb. 4 with the University of Missouri-St. Louis community in the Millennium Student Center Century Rooms. O'Brien delivered a speech that left some in tears.

Since accepting a position with CNN in 2003, O'Brien has reported news around the world. She has produced and anchored acclaimed, record-grossing documentaries such as "Black in America" and many

others. In 2010, she authored her memoir, "The Next Big Story," which alludes to how her upbringing has shaped her views and chronicles her greatest moments as a journalist.

As a multi-ethnic girl who grew up in the 1970s and 1980s, O'Brien is no stranger to adversity. She recounted her story to the UMSL community.

"I started working in television news in 1987. My first job was to remove staples from three floors of bulletin boards in Boston," O'Brien said. "My working-class

parents had just spent \$100,000 on my education. To say they were disappointed is an understatement, but I loved what I did."

In 1958, Edward and Estelle O'Brien were married. Estelle, a French and English teacher, was an Afro-Cuban immigrant to the U.S. Soledad O'Brien's father, Edward O'Brien, was a Caucasian-Australian engineering professor. In 1958, interracial marriage was illegal in Maryland, Soledad O'Brien recalled. Despite the social hurdles they faced, O'Brien's parents

traveled to Washington D.C. to get married. "[My parents'] friends told them never to have children. Interracial children have no place in the world," O'Brien said. "People would spit on my parents as they walked down the streets with my older siblings. But they knew that they were on the right side of history. They had to be the example, and change would follow."

Discussing how her upbringing and how discrimination and adversity affected her views, O'Brien said, "I've asked my parents, 'How

did you deal with that?' And they'd answer, 'Sweetie, we knew America was better than that.' And they were right. Change may come, but you cannot wait for it. You have to do what you want to do and pay no heed to others. They aren't doing what they're doing for you; they are doing what they do for themselves, so that you'll fit in this box they have preconceived for you."

O'Brien's parents knew that they were on the right side of history. They knew that change comes slowly, and they knew that the thing

(continued on page 3)

In This Issue: **PTSD discussed**
Page 3

UMSL galleries
Page 5

Kishi Bashi
Page 6

Softball preview
Page 8

What's Current

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor-in-Chief	Cate Marquis
Managing Editor	Sharon Pruitt
News Editor	Sharon Pruitt
Features Editor	Anya Glushko
Sports Editor	Leon Devance
A&E Editor	David Von Nordheim
Opinions Editor	Hali Flintrop
Copy Editor	Sarah Novak Casey Rogers
Staff Writers	Sean Cristea, Carolyn Hoang Albert Nall, Hung Nguyen Paul Peanick, Matt Poposky

DESIGN STAFF

Designer	Jenny Lin
Photo Editor	Jenny Lin
Web Editor	Cate Marquis
Staff Photographers	Leon Devance

BUSINESS STAFF

Business Manager	John Wallace
Advertising Director	Sarah O'Brien
Distribution Manager	Mavis Hollis
Adviser	Charlotte Petty

CONTACT US

Mailing Address	388 MSC 1 University Blvd St. Louis, MO 63121-4400
Newsroom	314-516-5174 thecurrenttips@umsl.edu
Business/Advertising	314-516-5316 thecurrentads@umsl.edu
Fax	314-516-6811
Editor-in-Chief	thecurrenteic@umsl.edu
Internships	thecurrentjobs@umsl.edu
Letters to Editor	thecurrenttips@umsl.edu
Twitter	@UMSLTheCurrent
Facebook	TheCurrentStudentNews

JOIN THE CURRENT!

The Current is seeking:

- ▶ Photographers
- ▶ Staff Writers
- ▶ Cartoonists

Job descriptions
& application at:
www.thecurrent-online.com/about-us/employment

"What's Current" is the weekly calendar of UMSL campus events and is a free service for student organizations. Submissions must be turned in by 5 p.m. the Thursday before publication; first-come, first-served. Listings may be edited for length and style. E-mail event listings to thecurrenttips@umsl.edu, with the subject "What's Current." No phone or written submissions.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Monday Noon Series: 'Explosion in the Middle East Art Scene'

Marilu Knode, director of Laumeier Sculpture Park and Aronson Endowed Professor of Modern and Contemporary Art History, describes her work in the Middle East, particularly Egypt, over the past decade, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m. in J.C. Penney Conference Center. For information: Karen Lucas at 314-516-5698.

Battle of the Bands sign-up

Sign up for the PLHCSA annual Battle of the Bands. The event is Thursday, April 11 at 7 p.m. and is open to the entire UMSL community and guests. The deadline to sign up is Monday, March 18. Contact Marty at mjd4f@mail.umsl.edu or Jessie at jnbleile@mail.umsl.edu to sign up. Soledad O'Brien, anchor for the CNN morning show Starting Point with Soledad O'Brien and a special correspondent for CNN/U.S., will discuss her diverse experiences as a journalist as well as her passion for giving back to the community, 7 - 9 p.m. in Millennium Student Center Century Room. For information: Office of Student Life at 314-516-5291.

UPB Commuter Breaks: Chips and Soda

Come out and get a snack of chips and soda, free of charge, to help get you through the day, 5 p.m. in Marillac Hall (South Campus). For information, contact Charlie McDonald or other UPB member at 314-516-5531. The free spaghetti dinner will begin at 6 p.m. followed by Ping Pong Tournament at Catholic Newman Center. For information: Rachele Simon at 314-385-3455 or www.cncumsl.org.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Ferguson Lunch Trolley

Catch the free trolley to Ferguson restaurants for lunch without losing your parking spot. The trolley makes four continuous loops between 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Sandwich board signs are placed at campus pickup stops: Woods Hall (west side), MSC (east side), and Marillac Hall (main entrance). For information, contact Mary Haux at 314-332-5546.

The Improv Shop comedy concert

Guy Phillips, the popular morning radio host at Y98, will join the comedic actors with The Improv Shop, 7:30 p.m. in Touhill Lee Theater, for hilarious, Chicago-style improv from St. Louis' own Improv Shop. Discounted SNAP student and faculty/staff tickets available. For information, contact Touhill Ticket Office at 314-516-4949.

Job Search Strategies

Workshop, 2-3 p.m. in 278 MSC Career Services Conference Room, focuses on job search and career management. Register at careers.umsl.edu. For information, contact Rachel Boehlow at 314-516-5111.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14

UPB: Love Is...

UPB is putting on a Valentine's Day event that wants you to share what love means to you, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Nosh Red Wall. No matter what your relationship status is, everyone has a different meaning of love. For information, contact Erin Potts or other UPB member at 314-516-5531.

Town Hall: The UMSL Experience and Reduced Costs to Students

Third of three town hall meetings are an opportunity for the campus to speak directly to the chancellor and provost about setting priorities for the university, 2-4 p.m. in Century Room A, Millennium Student Center.

Our strategic planning process is designed to guide the campus in making decisions about the future of UMSL. For information, contact Patricia Dolan at 314-516-5303.

Feminist Film Series

Celebrate Valentine's Day by viewing "Women's Empowerment," a film exploring women's empowerment and leadership around the world, 2:30-4:30 p.m. in Gender Studies offices, Lucas 494. Free popcorn; BYO soda. Sponsored by the Gender Studies Program. For information, contact Sally Ebest at 314-516-6383.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15

'Valentines for Veterans' concert

The VA St. Louis Health Care System is pleased to present the 2013 Valentines for Veterans Concert featuring The Miracles, 7 p.m. in Touhill Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall. Tickets are complimentary for veterans and their families. For information, contact Ticket Hotline at 314-894-6125.

A Knight of Murder Masquerade Ball

Costumed Medieval-themed participatory mystery at Catholic Newman Center, 7-10 p.m. Get a character and solve the murder, while enjoying appetizers, mocktails, and more. Must RSVP to Evite or email Rachele by Wed. Feb. 13. Creative costumes, props are encouraged. For information, contact Rachele Simon at 314-385-3455.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Pazazz Gala 2013 dance concert fundraiser

Pazazz Performers of St. Louis Academy of Dance's Third Annual Gala is 7 p.m. in Touhill Lee Theater. The Big Muddy Dance Company and Common Thread Contemporary Dance Company will also perform. Proceeds will benefit Drea's Dream, a dance therapy and expressive movement program for children with cancer and special needs, and Pazazz Performers. For information, contact Touhill Ticket Office at 314-516-4949.

Campus Crimeline

THEFT - MILLENNIUM NORTH PARKING GARAGE Feb. 1, 11 a.m. Report # 13-038.

A student reported the theft of a parking permit. Disposition: Report taken.

CIT AMBULANCE - VILLA HALL Feb. 2, 5:03 a.m. Report # 13-040.

An UMSL student was transported to the hospital via ambulance after taking an overdose of medication. Disposition: Report taken.

DISTURBANCE - MILLENNIUM STUDENT CENTER Feb. 5, 1:20 p.m. Report # 13-050.

UMSL Police responded to a dispute between two Subway employees. Disposition: Report taken.

THEFT - WEST DRIVE GARAGE Feb. 5, 5 p.m. Report # 13-052.

An UMSL student reported a parking permit stolen from their car parked in the West Drive Garage. Disposition: Report taken.

THEFT - CLARK HALL Feb. 6, 1:45 p.m. Report # 13-055.

An UMSL student reported a wallet containing a debit card and miscellaneous personal items was stolen from her purse. Investigation continuing. Disposition: Report taken.

INFORMATIONAL REPORT - ARTS & ADMINISTRATION BUILDING Feb. 7, 4:45 p.m. Report # 13-058.

UMSL PD responded to a former staff member in a dispute in Human Resources. Disposition: Report taken.

Veterans Center hosts discussion on PTSD

HUNG NGUYEN STAFF WRITER

After celebrating its opening last semester, the University of Missouri-St. Louis Veterans Center organized a two-part lecture on post-traumatic stress disorder on Jan. 31. The talk featured Dr. Tara Galovski, licensed therapist and assistant professor of psychology, Center for Trauma Recovery, and James Sperry, lance corporal, U.S. Marine Corps.

Galovski defined PTSD and provided an overview of what treatment options are available. She studies trauma and trauma-related disorders and has published work on trauma and veterans' health in numerous peer-reviewed journals. Her research currently focuses on cognitive processing therapy, a new, cutting-edge treatment option for individuals with PTSD.

According to Galovski, PTSD is a mental health disorder resulting from observing or experiencing a dangerous event. Patients can exhibit avoidance as well as physical symptoms including insomnia, prolonged anxiety, sensitivity to certain triggers and self-isolation. As a treatment option, Galovski reports that CPT currently shows few cases of relapse. The treatment involves a series of therapy sessions where patients re-examine their trauma in more detail and question the circumstances they were contending with during the trauma.

"Most people move through the sadness of a big event. The people with PTSD keep beating themselves up over and over and over again about it," Galovski said. "If you can get the PTSD symptoms down and open people's minds to 'I can rejoin life,' then the world is their oyster." Without medical attention, veterans have been known to resort to suicidal or risky behavior.

As the war winds down in the Middle East, though, the increased number of cases found in recent years has led to a backlog in the Veterans Affairs health system. The VA has responded by expanding its staff and resources accordingly but is currently far from meeting the demand for care. Fortunately, both civilians and retired officers have established a number of national, nonprofit organizations to help fill the void. Enter Sperry.

Sperry presented his personal story and how he has tried to create change in the past few years. In 2004, after being wounded multiple times, including a traumatic brain injury, Sperry developed PTSD due to tragic experiences during his tours in Iraq. In the six years that followed, he isolated himself from family and friends and began using drugs and alcohol. With the urging and assistance of a Wounded Warriors

nurse, Kim Bradley, Sperry received treatment through the SHARE program at Shepherd Center Hospital in Atlanta, Ga., in 2011. With savings and his grandmother's small inheritance, Sperry has since founded and is currently president of The Fight Continues, an organization aimed at promoting awareness about veteran PTSD/TBI and providing peer-based transitional and support services for those affected. These include coordinating group therapy, volunteer opportunities, group exercise and recreational outings to connect military families and veterans.

"If you get [veterans with PTSD/TBI] in a room with their fellow combat brothers who were in active duty with them and stood on the same street, then all you have to do is have someone in there who has walked the walk to say, 'This is the step you're taking wrong, and this is going to cause more nightmares, more headaches, more this. I know. I did it. This is the correct way to do it,'" Sperry said.

While PTSD can present in victims of different traumatic events, as combat conditions evolved and service terms were extended in the Global Wars on Terrorism, PTSD has become more prevalent among veterans.

"The difference with this war, compared to any other war, is that usually you had one tour of duty in Vietnam or World War II and you were done, and if you wanted to go on another tour, you could. It wasn't mandatory. Nowadays, these guys are going on four, five, six, seven tours. On top of that, when they get back, social structure here [today] is not the World War II social structure, where there was a lot of family support. Everybody's so spread out," Sperry said.

The lecture hosted by the UMSL Veterans Center is the first in a long-term effort to raise awareness about veterans' issues as well as the resources available to veterans and their families.

"One of our main focuses at the Veterans Center is veteran health and making sure that, in general, veterans can re-integrate into society, and taking care of that health piece is a big part of it," Ryan Barrett, center director, graduate student, political science, said.

"We had that lecture to kind of educate the larger UMSL community and any student veterans on campus that would be willing to come and learn about the clinical issue surrounding some of their combat experience," Jacob Perkins, graduate student, social work, center affiliate, said.

The center is currently working on future plans for additional programs based on previously collected student feedback.

O'Brien

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to do was be the example of what a better America would look like. O'Brien, the fifth of six interracial children, who lived in America during a time of great civil strife, is a Harvard graduate. All her siblings are Harvard graduates, as well.

"My sister Estelle told me that when she was an undergrad, studying physics, her professor would come and tell her to change her major, because minorities didn't do well in science and women couldn't do math," O'Brien said. "Well, my sister has her degree in astrophysics and earned a PhD and later an MD in medicine. Today she is an eye surgeon. So I guess minorities can do science and women can do math, after all."

O'Brien stressed that there are always, for a host of reasons, forces standing in the way of individuals who struggle to make their voices heard, who want to find success and to validate their lives.

"Whatever is the thing that moves you, do it as if God Almighty decreed that you do it. And then just stand there. Don't wait for times to change in favor of what you want to do with your life, or you might be waiting a long time," O'Brien said. "People often ask me what adversity I've faced in life. And I tell them none. Personally, I never let what other people believe stop me from what I'm going to do in life. And neither should you. The only thing that holds most of us back today is ourselves and the importance we place on what others think of us."

"What I've learned as a journalist, the takeaway from all my travels around the world, is that we're all the same. We want to be with our fellow man and be of service. That's what has most impressed me, the heroic actions of ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances, whether in regards to 9/11, the Asian Tsunami, post Hurricane Katrina and many other examples. It's these things that have highlighted for me how similar we all are, how human, and how superficial our differences are."

O'Brien is currently working on three new documentaries and remains a special correspondent for CNN.

**THE CURRENT
NEEDS
PHOTOGRAPHERS!**

IF YOU OWN A DSLR CAMERA & HAVE
PHOTO TRAINING, STOP BY 388 MSC &
FILL OUT AN APPLICATION OR EMAIL
THECURRENTJOBS@UMSL.EDU

Jubilee Flashback

The Current has been part of UMSL since 1966. In honor of the campus's 50th anniversary, we are reprinting articles from our archives.

This story originally ran on Feb. 11, 1971.

Bell back in shape

The liberty bell, the "object d'art" that stands in front of the Life-Science building, was the target of vandals sometime during the night of Jan 14. The unknown artists painted an abstract design of red, black and blue across the three supports and the bell itself, etching large black question marks on one leg.

The bell, a donation from the local Kiwanis Club, has come under criticism from students and faculty as being "ugly," "monstrous" and "a supreme letdown."

Ken Smith, superintendent of the physical plant, whose crews had the task of cleaning the paint from the bell, said, "Sometimes these things happen as a sort of protest and sometimes not. With all the vandalism we have, it would be hard to say if it was a protest or just plain vandalism."

Smith's crews finished cleaning the bell on Jan. 25 but still have no clues as to the identity of the persons responsible.



The "liberty bell" on the UMSL campus 1971. Image from The Current archives.

UMSL student enjoys being involved on campus

ANYA GLUSHKO FEATURES EDITOR

Sometimes it can be very beneficial to get out of your comfort zone and become involved with your community. It can enrich individuals by providing them with new knowledge, experiences and relationships.

Katie Kratzer, senior, criminology, works as a desk assistant in Oak Hall, is a secretary of the Pierre Laclède Honors College Student Association, is a mentor in the SMART [Student Mentor Advisory and Recruitment Team] program at the honors college, serves as a study abroad ambassador and is an orientation leader for new student orientation.

"Working as a desk assistant, part of my job is to ensure the safety of the residents, [which] is something that can translate to my future career goal of working for the FBI," Kratzer said.

"I [want] to work for the FBI because of all of the crime shows which I started watching when I was around middle school age, as lame as that may sound. The first show that I watched was 'CSI: Las Vegas' ... The character of Sealy Booth, a special agent from the series 'Bones,' and his job, while not completely accurate with the real-life tasks of a special agent, is still very intriguing to me," Kratzer said. Also, Kratzer mentioned that she does not have much time to watch television while in college, but does not regret it because she can become more involved and invest her

free time in other activities.

"'CSI' sparked my interest in the field of criminology. After I became interested in this profession, I did some more research and began to narrow my career options, and that's when I decided upon perusing a career with the FBI," Kratzer said.

Kratzer is still not sure whether she wants to pursue a higher education by attending graduate school. She plans to obtain an internship where she can apply her criminology degree.

Most of the organizations that Kratzer is involved in require interacting with a wide variety of people; her engagement with student organizations also helps her prepare for possible demands in her future career.

Kratzer believes that through the campus involvement, students not only have the opportunity to network with other students and faculty, but are also taught time management skills, organizational skills and how to work as a team.

"My duties in PLCHSA include assisting and event planning. It sometimes can be difficult to organize the events because there are a lot of aspects to consider, such as date and time of the event, being careful that your program fits within a budget and making sure that you create an event that's interesting and people would want to attend. Right now PLCHSA is planning a water pong tournament for March



UMSL student Katie Kratzer in Costa Rica.

PHOTO: BRIANNE BUTLER

13. We are also planning Casino Night to be held on Feb. 19, and Battle of the Bands will be later in the semester on April 11. PLCHSA events are open to all UMSL students and their families," Kratzer said.

As a SMART mentor, it is Kratzer's job to make sure that all 15 of her student mentees are performing well academically. "I think for the incoming students to the honors college, it's beneficial to know that there is someone that they can talk to and get help from with any campus issue. We also try to let our students know about events that are happening on campus, as well," Kratzer said.

In her junior year, Kratzer traveled to Costa Rica

through the Study Abroad Program. "From my own experience studying abroad I know how terrifying it can be to study in a foreign country without knowing anyone and not fully understanding the language ... We live in a very culturally diverse world, and through experiencing firsthand a different culture, one can gain a better understanding of the citizens and the country," Kratzer said. That is why she decided to become a study abroad ambassador, so that she could serve as a friendly face and resource for international students.

Kratzer's job as an orientation leader requires her to serve as a resource for new UMSL students. "We answer questions, show them

around campus and educate them about campus procedures ... The most rewarding thing about being an orientation leader is hearing from my students ... One day after orientation, a student Facebook messaged me and said that he [had not been] sure whether or not he wanted to attend UMSL [because of the distance from his family and friends]. He mentioned that my energy and passion for this university were what ultimately convinced him to study at UMSL ... Knowing that I had that kind of impact on a student is a rewarding feeling," Kratzer said.

THE CURRENT NEEDS CARTOONISTS!

CAN YOU DRAW?
ARE YOU HILARIOUS/WITTY?

IF YOU ANSWERED "KINDA" TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS, STOP BY 388 MSC AND FILL OUT AN APPLICATION. TURN IN SOME SAMPLES OF YOUR STRIP, ALSO.

YOU CAN ALSO E-MAIL THECURRENTJOBS@UMSL.EDU

Gallery 210 exhibit captures nature in steel

HUNG NGUYEN STAFF WRITER

Gallery 210 held an opening reception on Feb. 7th to welcome "Rhythm, Line & Form: The Sculpture of John Medwedeff," a collection of metal sculptures, maquettes and sketches of Medwedeff's public art installations.

The signature element of Medwedeff's work is his ability to create graceful curved shapes that seem unexpectedly organic and fluid.

"I really respond to organic forms that I see in nature. The formation of a tornado or just the way a vine wraps around a tree. Those kinds of forms really catch my attention. The way a wave forms in the ocean; I find a lot of beauty and energy in that and that translates into the work I do," Medwedeff explains.

Medwedeff transforms the space around each sculpture with his exquisite forms. Though his public art is often installed in urban settings, they seem to fit seamlessly into the crowded cityscape. By extending his works beyond the neatness of right angles and lines, Medwedeff is able to better mimic his natural muses and also soften the characteristic rigid polygonal structures of industrialized cityscapes. His works accentuate their surroundings by

presenting a piece of nature, encapsulated and processed but still highly organic.

The curved forms are not static shapes with round components. They are loosely captured states of motion, with life still preserved by careful arrangement of negative space. The upward-reaching spirals present in most of the sculptures serve to elevate the piece, concentrating the action and energy of constituent forms to a central point.

The exhibition's title is apt in describing "rhythm" as a characteristic of the artist's work. Medwedeff transforms natural pulses into his own rendered tempos of his subjects. They are manifestations of nature rather than two-dimensional snapshots, with subjects ranging from biological tropisms to the motions of the wind and water. This capture of natural rhythms gives a distinctly alchemical quality to Medwedeff's work.

"It's essentially a lifeless sheet of metal. I'm putting some air into it, some life into it," Medwedeff said.

Though motivated by passion and natural inspiration, spontaneity must be kept in check. The artist's exquisite aesthetic comes with intensive labor and persistence.

Metal must be heated to hundreds of degrees before it can be shaped. Even then, the metalsmith has only a few seconds before the metal begins to cool. The challenge is compounded when sculptures are scaled up to over twenty feet in the final phase. Cranes and other heavy machinery must be carefully used. In these larger commissions, Medwedeff has had to work collaboratively with engineers to ensure that his envisioned aesthetic can be feasibly rendered into a realistic installation.

"I started working with metal when I was like, seven or eight years old. It's like asking, 'Why do I breathe air?' It's just something I gravitate to," Medwedeff said.

Perhaps it is this passion and experience that has enabled Medwedeff to take full advantage of the metal medium to produce his signature forms.

John Medwedeff earned his master of fine arts in metalsmithing at the Southern Illinois University-Carbondale (SIUC) and has had work commissioned throughout the Midwest and featured in many national venues.

Visio's 'Odyssey' traces artist's life in quilts

HUNG NGUYEN STAFF WRITER

Gallery Visio visitors can find shelter from the cold winds of the winter months in the warm colors, well-placed stitches and assorted fabrics of Rachel Heim's "Odyssey," on display through Feb. 27. The exhibit launched with a highly successful opening reception on Jan. 23, featuring handmade quilts that take the audience through a journey of the artist's life experiences. Heim's exhibition has its origins in the domicile, a fitting medium for the personal dialogue the artist hopes to have with her audience.

Though her work stems from family tradition, Heim's pieces are entirely worthy of a gallery setting. Her work is a marriage of her experience as a classically trained studio artist and her personal pastime of quilt making. These inheritances are evident in her uses of different shades of fabric to convey a sense of light and darkness and her use of positioning to convey depth. She uses stitches in place of drawn lines in pieces such as "Honey Bee," where the path of a bee annoyingly flying around the subject's head is traced through her stitching.

"I have a heavy studio art background. I've worked in a lot different media and I've learned to represent values and separate out visual elements to accomplish what needs to be accomplished," Heim said. "Then you combine it with the tangible aspects of quilting and the texture and the richness of the material, the media, and it just seemed so natural to me."

One of the most notable series in the installation is the biblical-themed trilogy of "Mania II," "Growth," and "Adam." The series builds on the garden of creation mythos, using it as a vehicle for conveying the artist's personal experiences. "Mania II" is a self-portrait, "Adam" is a portrait of Heim's fiancé and "Growth" is a depiction of a tree of life from root to branch. The three pieces are substantial enough to stand independently, but Heim implants common fabric patterns and manipulates

negative space and weight so that the pieces fit together in a puzzle-like manner.

As a series, the pieces communicate a clear relatable concept with ample depth. With "Growth" in the center and the two portraits on either side, Heim explained that the series represents the artist's commitment to self-improvement through personal sacrifice. The subjects in the two portraits do not look at each other but are powerfully connected as they look toward the tree, representing a common understanding of the growth and love that went into its development.

"Ripples" is where Heim's artistic powers reach their pinnacle. The piece is arrestingly organic, with the ripples formed by taut, thin stitch patterns lending motion to the piece. The work is Heim's portrait of a melancholy, downtrodden man who modeled for her. His eyes look yonder, never locking with the viewer's. His pain and troubles are left ambiguous, but they provocatively radiate toward the viewer through the piece's ripples.

This intensity continues in "Fangs," in which pointed segments and stitched fangs form the portrait of a blonde woman. Heim suspects her subject may be hiding a dangerous secret under her soft and beautiful surface.

Along with these gripping portraits, "Odyssey" documents people and places that have informed Heim's life experiences. "Mr. Robbins" and "Mrs. Robbins" are subjects the artist knows intimately. "Salsa Tonight" and "Comevisitus" represent the various communities the artist has called home. "Mangwe Aye" is a brightly-colored image of a 9-year-old girl Heim tutored. "Praise and Worship" is a reflection on multiculturalism and spiritual unity, with God depicted by two large hands at the top of the work. The piece was constructed from



One of the pieces in "Odyssey." IMAGE COURTESY OF GALLERY VISIO

prints Heim purchased from a blind artist.

Two of the exhibit's pieces seem to be a direct nod to the quilting tradition that Heim inherited.

"Direction" shows an adorned compass made from conventional polygonal shapes. "It's her homage to the tradition of quilt-making," Stephanie Sivils, gallery director, said.

In "Foreign Lands," the quilts are stitched in horizontal segments, with variations in fabric tones and prints that come together as a patchwork of assorted landscapes.

Heim's unconventional uses of fiber will make viewers re-think their preconceptions about quilt making. They can even make their own contribution to the patchwork "Odyssey": the exhibit features an outline of a quilt and fabric shapes that viewers can stitch onto a quilt themselves, enabling them to contribute their own experiences to Heim's autobiographical conversation.

Rachel Heim graduated from UMSL in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in studio art. Her work has been exhibited by the Regional Arts Commission and Koken Art Factory.

Read more of The Current online at
www.thecurrent-online.com

Of Pabst and Pee: A chat with Kishi Bashi

DAVID VON NORDHEIM A&E EDITOR

Released on his independent imprint Joyful Noise in 2012, Kishi Bashi's debut album "151a" was an excellent showcase for the journeyman composer's lush, orchestral indie pop, making it one of the year's best releases. In anticipation for his headlining performance at The Firebird on Feb. 16, The Current spoke with Kishi Bashi (who goes by "K" for short) about the highlights of his promising solo career thus far.

TC: You begin your career as a fiddle-for-hire for well-known indie artists like Regina Spektor and of Montreal. Have your experiences as a solo artist changed your musical outlook?

KB: Definitely. I think being able to work with notable artists like Regina and of Montreal is very inspiring, but working on the album ["151a"] let me see what I was able to achieve on my own. It was very similar in a way, because Regina Spektor is a solo artist, and of Montreal is a band, but it's really more Kevin Barnes's singular vision. Working with these very creative and prolific minds was a really educational experience.

TC: Perhaps the most attention-getting aspect of "151a" was the impressively-composed string sections. Do you consider yourself a chamber pop musician in the same vein as Andrew Bird, Rufus Wainwright and the like?

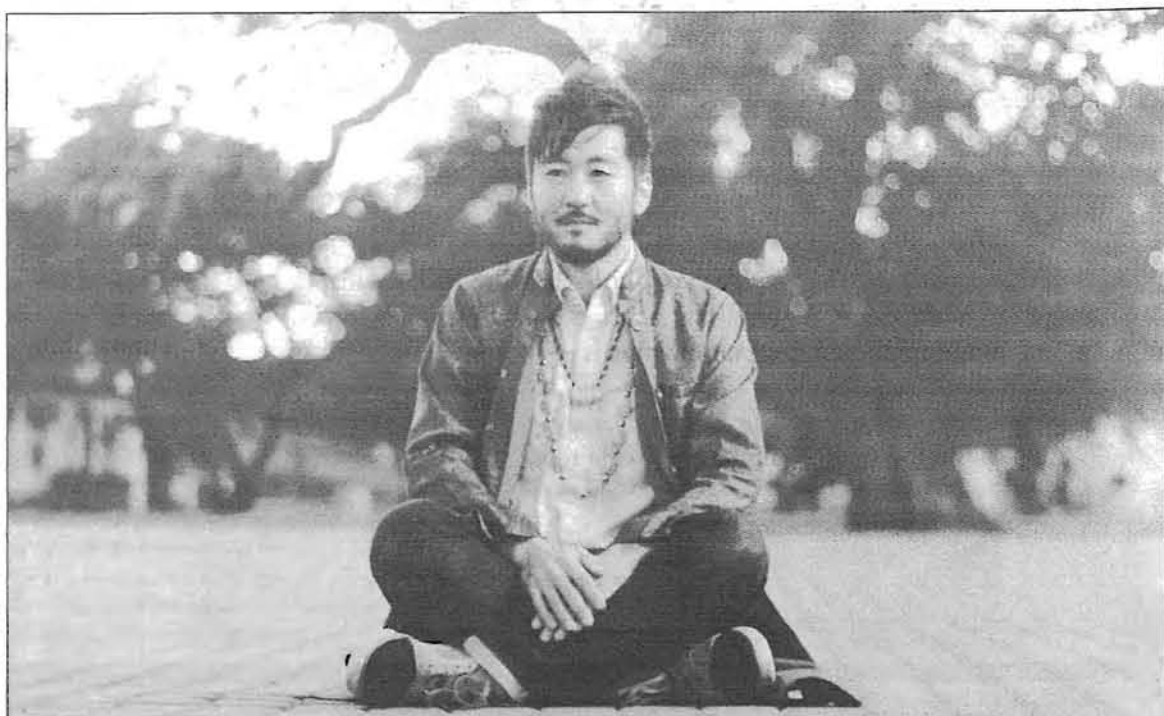
KB: Well, I like Andrew Bird and Rufus Wainwright a lot and really respect their work, but I wouldn't really say I aspire to the chamber pop label, per se. I am also an orchestral composer, as you probably know, so [writing for orchestra] was something that was kind of natural to me. The more I did with that, the more unique I could be as an independent artist.

TC: You single-handedly performed all of the production duties on your debut album. Will you be taking a similar approach with your follow-up release?

KB: Most definitely. I am a huge advocate for self-recording. The thing that's great about today is that anybody can make an album, and your own creativity's your only limit. When I start giving the follow-up more attention, I will try to handle as much of the work myself as possible.

TC: You actually performed in St. Louis last year at Off Broadway, if I'm not mistaken. Was that your first experience touring in St. Louis?

KB: Well, I've played in St. Louis multiple times, but playing at Off Broadway [a couple years ago] was one of my first experiences. I tour in St. Louis a lot because of one my biggest Kickstarter supporters lives around here. He gave me a lot of



Musician Kishi Bashi in repose

PHOTO COURTESY OF 2:30 PUBLICITY

funding to hold my own St. Louis show, and that's where [last year's] Off Broadway show came from.

TC: You've released several fascinating videos to accompany some of "151a's" singles, such as the cryptic, idiom-filled "Bright Whites" and the very beautiful animated video for "I Am the Antichrist to You." How would you describe the approach you take to music videos? How does it differ from recording and producing your music?

KB: Yeah, I took a very active role in creating the videos. My wife and I worked on the storyboard [for "Antichrist"], and I directed it. I really love working with film, and I have been thinking of getting into it more and more lately. As far as the difference between working with music and film, I just think

there's so much power in visual imagery, and it complements my musical background very well. I really can't avoid getting my hands in it!

TC: Okay, one last thought. "It's Christmas But It's Not White Here in Our Town" was easily the best indie pop Christmas jingle of 2012. Do you have any other upcoming one-off singles in the works?

KB: Ha, thanks! Up until now I've never really considered releasing singles, if only because the connotation of the name makes it sound a little unimportant. I have a single out now that wrote for a Japanese TV commercial, "Philosophize," and it's been really picking up in popularity, so I've been thinking about recording a full version of it; that should be coming to the

[U.S.] soon.

TC: Looking forward to it! Any last thoughts for us?

KB: Sure! I'd just like to let everyone know how much I'm looking forward to returning to St. Louis again. I'm not playing at Off Broadway this time, I know, so I'm looking forward to the change of scenery. Actually, do you have any insight into [the venue]?

TC: Yes, you'll be playing at The Firebird, which is one of the better venues in the area. Don't be fooled by appearances, though; it looks like someone's basement and it reeks of pee and Pabst.

KB: Ha! That sounds excellent. I'll have a set designer with me specifically for this show, so it should be a really interesting visual experience as well. Hope you guys enjoy it!

Master violist Elias Goldstein entertains and astounds in performance at the Touhill PAC

JENN POWERS STAFF WRITER

The Arianna String Quartet welcomed Dr. Elias Goldstein, a rising star among viola players, to the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center on Feb. 6. An award-winning master violist, Goldstein has played with many prestigious national orchestras worldwide, including Norway, New Mexico and, most recently, Russia. His impressive resume boasts a long list of achievements: he is a Collins Fellow at the University of Wisconsin, where he received his doctorate in musical arts, he was recently a guest concertmaster at the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and he is the founding member and principal violist of the Advent Chamber Orchestra.

Wednesday night's concert in-

cluded four works by three composers. The first piece performed was Paul Hindemith's "Sonata for Viola and Piano, Opus 11 Number 4." Goldstein was accompanied by Daniel Fry on piano. The sonata had three movements, each of which was technically demanding and powerfully delivered. The music ran the emotional gamut, incorporating melodies that ranged from loud and furious to soft and tranquil.

Fry's performance on the piano was a perfect complement to Goldstein's viola. His adeptness was especially apparent when the composition demanded him to perform two passages simultaneously, a feat that required the use of two music stands. It was a wonderful start to the evening and an excellent showcase for

both musicians' masterful talents.

The second piece of the evening was the best received, containing a comedic element that surprised and delighted the audience. "Sonata per la grand Viola and Piano" by composer Nicolo Paganini once again featured Fry on piano. The performance was endearing and quirky, striking the audience with its incredible technicality as Goldstein effortlessly played a piece that was both furiously passionate and hilariously dramatic. During his solos, Goldstein's bow sawed the instrument so rapidly that it appeared as a blur. He would then stop abruptly for a momentary pause, contorting his face into a silly expression and making an over-dramatic gesture to deflate the tension. The audience definitely got the

joke, responding with a storm of applause and shouts of "Bravo!" as Goldstein delivered the final note.

After a brief intermission, Goldstein returned to the stage alone to perform "Sonata Number 2 for Unaccompanied Viola BWV 1003" by J.S. Bach. Although it was a solo piece, Goldstein created such immersive acoustics that at times it sounded as if there was another performer accompanying him, adding to the beautiful texture and timbre of the music being played.

For the fourth and final performance of the evening, Joanna Mendoza of the Arianna String Quartet accompanied Goldstein as he revisited Paganini in four pieces that he personally arranged for two violas. Before the piece,

he told the audience that Paganini could be interpreted as "either tragic or comic" and, flashing a giant grin, quipped that he was going to "go for the comedy" during the final part of the show.

He did not disappoint. Both violists were in their element, and once again, the comic timing was flawless. The audience laughed often, and the level of mastery was obvious. This piece also required great technique, and the challenge was met at every measure.

Goldstein's performance was flawless, masterfully delivered and completely engaging. It was an evening beyond reproach, a perfect example of the immersive power of chamber music. Bravo indeed!

That textbook comes to zero dollars

GUEST OPINION

Brown Daily Herald,
Brown U. via UWIRE

At the beginning of each semester, students begrudgingly trudge to the bookstore to pay an exorbitant price to purchase textbooks for their classes. Many others, looking to save money, resort to purchasing books through online retailers like Amazon, where they often revel in having saved money before realizing they somehow received the wrong book. In an age where sharing information is even easier than withholding it, students have many options to obtain course materials. Unless the textbook industry plans a significant overhaul in policy and distribution, buying a textbook may soon become obsolete.

Purchasing textbooks is traditionally seen as a necessary college expense and can be a rite of passage for first-years taking their first courses. But students in this day and age have found other, sometimes illicit, approaches to obtaining textbooks. We do not condone the illegality of these methods, but we cannot deny their existence or their appeal to students.

Rather than spending money, students can receive textbooks from a friend, borrow them "long-term" from the library, download them from the Internet, purchase international editions of textbooks that are often cheaper

or even choose not to buy them at all.

We do not specifically advocate any of these options, but they are certainly more sensible to the frugal college student. This begs the question: Should textbook companies adapt to remain relevant cornerstones of our educational experiences? Are they even capable of doing so?

We have nothing against textbooks in general. Many students find having a physical copy of the textbook to be much more conducive to studying, and for those students who are perfectly content with purchasing textbooks, feel free to stop reading at this point. But many students do look to economize, and it is common knowledge that other options exist, such as the ones outlined above.

After all, there are formal institutions that suggest knowledge is a public good that should be accessible to all who seek it. This is why websites such as Wikipedia have been so popular not just with students, but also with the general public.

In addition, the popularity of free courseware with several top institutions such as Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology attest to the belief that the

more people gain knowledge, the better. We hope the textbook industry can recognize the trend toward the de-commodification of education and take appropriate and drastic measures to stay relevant in these rapidly changing times.

We understand that buying textbooks is sometimes completely necessary. Many classes require course packets that can only be bought through the bookstore, and it can be difficult to obtain that specific gender studies or post-modernist Bengali poetry book from a friend or online.

But simultaneously, we want to challenge the notion that buying textbooks is the only option or even the best option. In accordance with the now-prevalent principles of open, accessible knowledge, institutions and the general public alike have already fundamentally uprooted the tenets of education. While textbooks cannot be handed out for free, it is time for the textbook industry to seriously evaluate and adapt to compete with the new, worthy competitors that have risen in its previously monopolized market in education.

Copyright 2013 Brown Daily Herald

PUZZLES

Math Club Puzzle of the Month

Submit your solution to the problem to R. Dotzel 329 ES by Feb. 22. Winners will be announced on the next Problem of the Month. Prizes available.

December problem solved by: Carolyn Drobak, Susan Novak and Chris Milliano

Note: The UMSL Math Club is currently planning for "pi day" (3/14). Stay tuned.

Our humble friend Uriah Heep has written 10 valentines and separately addressed 10 envelopes to acquaintances expressing praise and admiration. However, he has assigned the chore of inserting the valentines into the envelopes and mailing them to his children, the little Heeps.

Alas, the chore was done at random and there is no guarantee that a particular valentine was sent to its intended target. He wonders, what is the probability that at least one valentine, despite the haphazard mailing procedure, has actually been sent to its correct destination? Can you help him?

Get back to the good stuff.

CONVENIENT CARE SO YOU CAN FOCUS ON WHAT MATTERS MOST

SOME OF OUR HEALTH SERVICES INCLUDE:

Pregnancy Tests • STD Testing and Treatment • Yeast Infections • Pap Smears • Birth Control • Breast Exams Annual Well Woman Exams • Emergency Contraception • HIV Testing • HPV Vaccine Prostate, Testicular and Cervical Cancer Screenings • Colposcopy • Cryotherapy

We've got you covered—with or without insurance. Now accepting all major insurance plans including: Aetna, Anthem, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Medicaid, United Healthcare and more.

 **Planned Parenthood**[®]

6 locations, one near you | 800.230.PLAN (7526)
www.plannedparenthood.org/stlouis



UMSL softball pushes for play-off berth

LEON DEVANCE SPORTS EDITOR

For the University of Missouri-St. Louis women's softball team, the 2012 season was a split that can be broken down into numbers.

UMSL was lower on base percentage, had fewer stolen bases and had more runners left on base, which led to a 27-25 record and a fourth-place finish in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. UMSL had a home record of 16-10 but was 6-10 on the road, was 5-5 in neutral site games and finished 16-18 in the conference.

So after a 31-20 overall record and a 20-5 GLVC conference record in 2011, Brian Levin, head coach, expected more from the 2012 squad. But after finishing two games above .500, Levin wants 2013 to be known as the year of the bounce-back.

Levin said a productive increase in numbers is the key to a successful 2013.

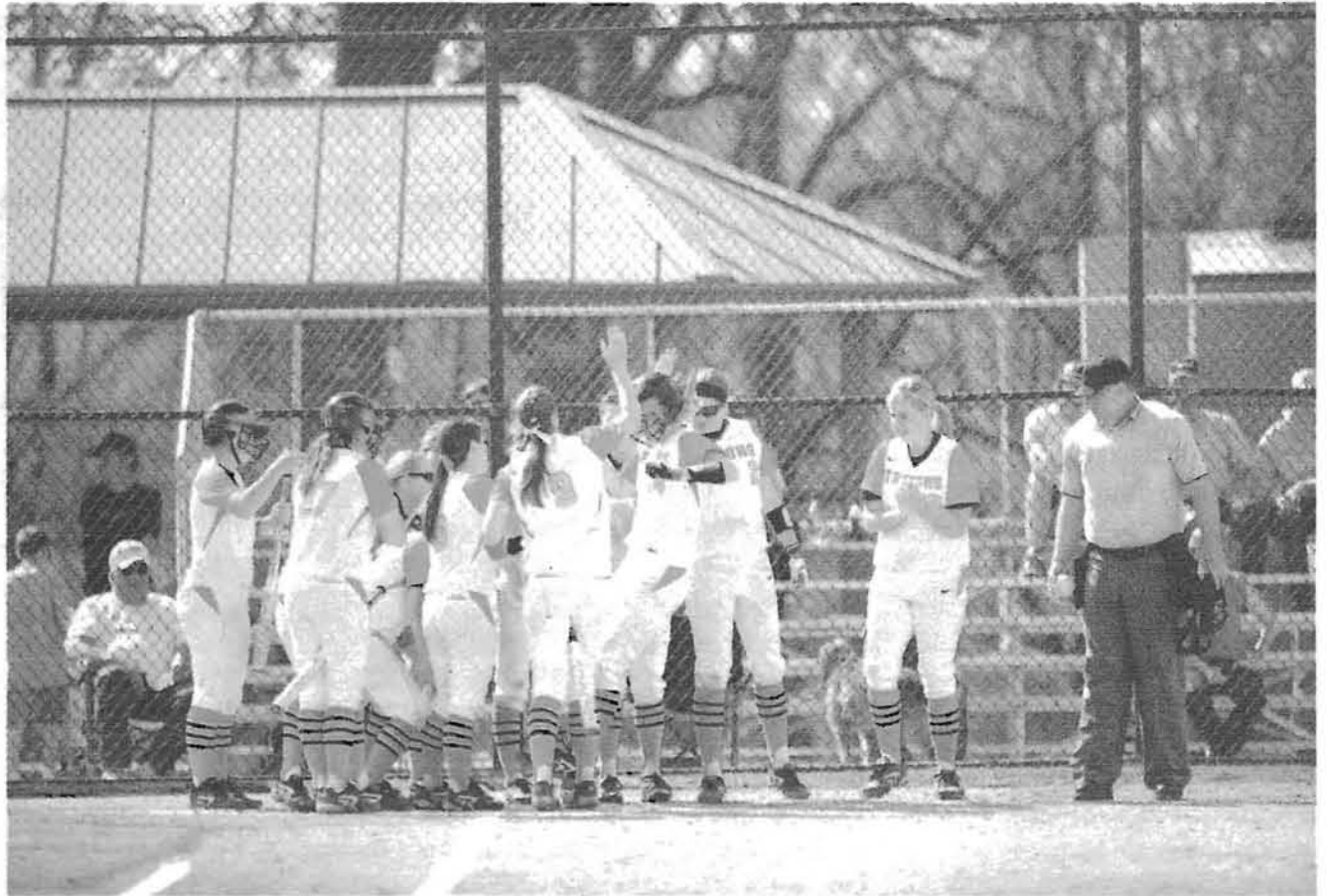
"Last year we were 10-11 in one-run games, and our on-base percentage dropped ... We need better pitch selection and to improve our walk ratio. We hit more homers last year, but hopefully we can get more clutch hits and two-outs hits. If we did those things last year, we might have won five more games and won 32 games instead of 27," Levin said.

Levin insisted that the pitching staff of Jena Boudreau, sophomore, nursing; Brittini Chapman, sophomore, undeclared; Hannah Perryman, freshman, criminology; and Alexa Harvey, senior, liberal studies, will key the rotation.

The competitive balance in the GLVC means that Indianapolis in the Eastern Division and Drury and Illinois-Springfield in the Western Division will give UMSL a run for the championship.

"Indianapolis has a good pitching staff led by Jennifer DeMotte, who is a shutdown pitcher. She can make the ball rise, she throws strikes and keeps batters off balance and she is a smart and crafty pitcher. Drury has a good pitching staff with SR, and they have had a lot of success with Coach Chantel Wilson because they play good fundamental softball. And Illinois-Springfield has team speed and pressures you by stealing bases," Levin said.

Levin is counting on returnees Katie Rutledge, sophomore, elementary education, a singles hitter, and outfielder Ashleigh King, junior, elementary education, a University of Memphis transfer, to patrol center field and plug some holes in the outfield. He is



Members of UMSL's softball team celebrate catcher Madison Zbaraschuk's home run. LEON DEVANCE/THE CURRENT

counting on shortstop Haleigh Jenkins, senior, physical education; first baseman Brianna Butler, sophomore, early childhood education and Monica Strube, assistant coach, to provide leadership and stability to the roster.

Boudreau called the 2012 season "disappointing." "It drove me to work hard this off-season with the strength and conditioning coach and practice on the fundamentals. Sometimes a group of girls would get together and hit. [Softball] is a mental game and you have to learn to control what you can and let the rest go. If the umpire is squeezing the strike zone, you still have to keep your focus ... My goal for this team is to become a [National Collegiate Athletic Association] tournament champion. Because we are very capable and strong this season, both offensively and

defensively, I busted my rear end off [to get ready]. And we click well as a team," Boudreau said.

Butler agreed that the team worked well together because of the off-season workouts. "The girls got together to hit line drives, catch and field simple grounders. We've got to understand situations and work counts. We also took swings on the tee before we face live pitching," Butler said.

Levin is ready to start the season. "We were successful in 2011 with 20-5 record, so why not have a positive attitude? This team has the potential, barring injuries, to go past the conference and regional championship. After last year, I made a vow to myself to never not make the tournament again," Levin said.

Carter moves to new role on bench

LEON DEVANCE SPORTS EDITOR

As a player on the University of Missouri-St. Louis women's basketball team, Kelly Carter, senior, elementary education, used her basketball talents to rank second in the UMSL record books as the second best individual three-point leader at 40.2 percent, minimum 75

three-point shots made, and dished out 194 assists in a five-year career.

As a freshman and sophomore, Carter had a reserve role before starting in her junior year. According to the UMSL website, Carter finished her career as the 2011-2012 season's leading three-

point field shot maker with 40 shots, and her 9.4 points a game made her third on the team.

Now, as a student assistant coach, Carter is learning the game of basketball from a different perspective.

"As the student assistant, I am

responsible for seeing that when we have practice everything is ready to go, the balls are out and on the rack, the clock is set up and the baskets are down. I also sweep the floor and wash the practice gear. But my favorite part of this job is to keep track of our defensive possessions on the possession chart.

"Our goal on defense is to have three stops in a row [where the opponent does not score on their offense possession whether we get a turnover, blocked shot or steal]. During the games, as we sit on the bench, when we get two consecutive stops, we like to yell, 'One more stop.' If we have three stops in a row, it gets the team pumped and switches the momentum [to our side]," Carter said.

Carter said that under Head Coach Katie Vaughn, she is learning some of the technical aspects of the game.

"I am learning as much as the girls on the team about our defensive rotations. The defensive pressure is to force teams to the baselines [where we can trap them to get turnovers or five-second counts] or inside to the post [so that the opponents cannot get easy baskets].

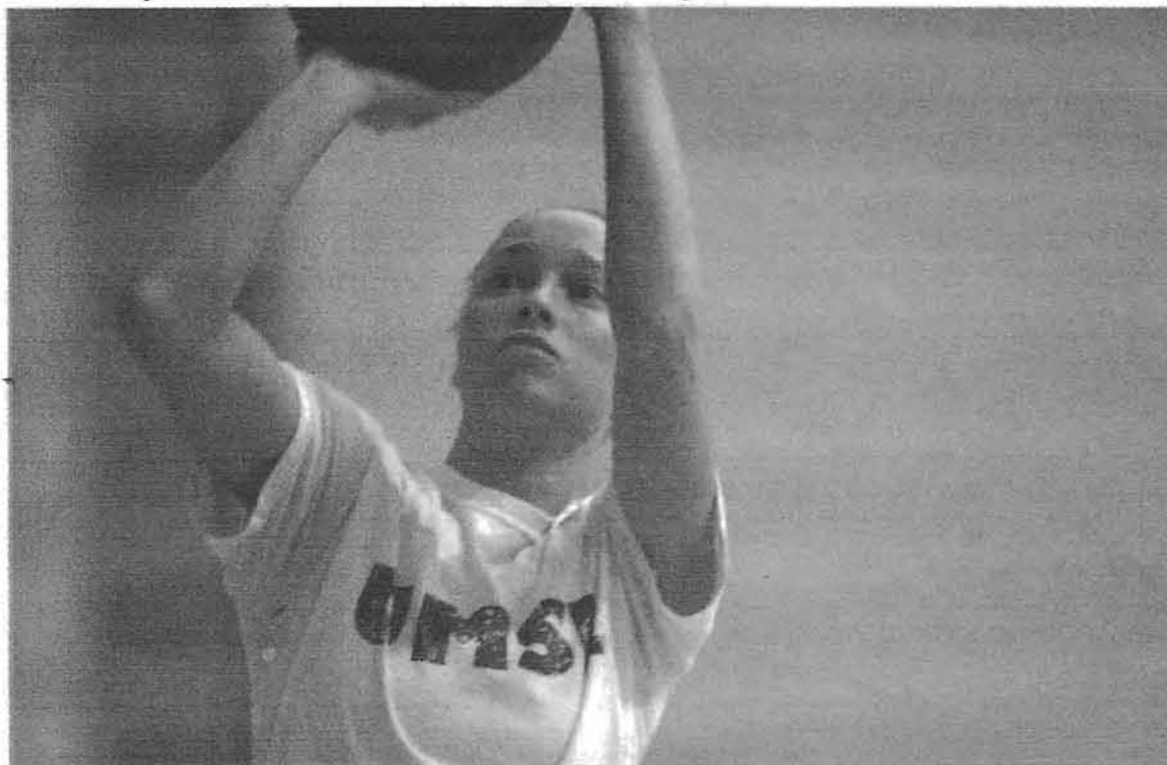
And we adjust the defensive game plan from game to game ... The adjustments focus on the player on the opposing team who we need to shut down. As a student assistant coach, I will say something if I notice something that needs to be addressed," Carter said.

Vaughn said that Carter is as a positive addition to the UMSL coaching staff.

"Kelly does an excellent job and has good relations with the players on the team. She can get the players focused and motivated, and every coaching staff needs someone like Kelly," Vaughn said.

Carter said that she is a passionate basketball fan and will always follow the game.

"I have passion to teach because that is my major, and I would like to do that as a profession. After I hurt my knee [Carter suffered a torn ACL as a senior], I was asked if I wanted to try to play basketball after college. Right now, the knee feels normal. I will always support and stay close to the program because basketball will always be a part of my life."



UMSL Triton Kelly Carter practices a shot.

LEON DEVANCE/THE CURRENT